

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

### **Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-3 have been cancelled.

4. *(New)* A method for operating transmitting and receiving devices in a control system for one or more rooms in a building, the method comprising:

transmitting data signals from at least one of the transmitting devices to at least one of the receiving devices at a predetermined transmission cycle with a predetermined transmission duration;

transmitting a synchronization signal from the at least one of the transmitting devices to the at least one of the receiving devices, the synchronization signal including information about the time interval between the transmitted data signals;

activating the at least one of the receiving devices at a predetermined time interval and for a predetermined time period, the predetermined time interval and period being synchronized to the transmission cycle of the at least one of the transmitting devices; and

allocating transmitting devices and receiving devices that communicate with one another via addresses that are included in the synchronization signal and data signal.

5. *(New)* The method of claim 4, wherein transmitting a synchronization signal from at least one of the transmitting devices to at least one of the receiving devices includes transmitting the synchronization signal at a halfway point during a time interval between the transmission of data signals.

6. *(New)* The method of claim 4, further comprising synchronizing a receiving device by activating the receiving device until it receives a synchronization signal from a transmitting

device and using the synchronization signal to set the predetermined time interval at which the receiving device is to be activated for receiving the data signal.

7. *(New)* The method of claim 4, wherein the transmitting devices are dedicated to transmitting signals and wherein the receiving devices are dedicated to receiving signals.

8. *(New)* The method of claim 4, wherein activating the at least one of the receiving devices at a predetermined time interval and for a predetermined time period includes activating the at least one of the receiving devices during the predetermined time interval for the predetermined time period and deactivating the at least one of the receiving devices during time periods other than the predetermined time period at the predetermined time interval.

9. *(New)* A method for operating a control system having a transmitting device and a receiving device, the method comprising:

transmitting a synchronization signal from the transmitting device to the receiving device, the synchronization signal including information regarding a predetermined time interval and address information allocating the receiving device and the transmitting device;

in response to the synchronization signal, periodically activating the receiving device for a predetermined time period at the predetermined time interval; and

periodically transmitting data from the transmitting device to the receiving device for a predetermined time period at the predetermined time interval, the data including control information and address information allocating the receiving device and the transmitting device.

10. *(New)* The method of claim 9, wherein transmitting a synchronization signal including address information includes transmitting address information that identifies the receiving device as the intended recipient of the synchronization signal.

11. *(New)* The method of claim 9, wherein transmitting data including address information includes transmitting address information that identifies the receiving device as the intended recipient of the data.

12. *(New)* The method of claim 9, further comprising, in response to the receiving device losing synchronization, activating the receiving device until the synchronization signal is received.

13. *(New)* The method of claim 9, further comprising, in response to the receiving device starting up, activating the receiving device until the synchronization signal is received.

14. *(New)* The method of claim 9, wherein transmitting data includes transmitting environmental control data.

15. *(New)* The method of claim 9, wherein transmitting a synchronization signal includes transmitting a synchronization signal during a time period that is between instances of the predetermined intervals and that does not coincide with the time period during which the data is transmitted.

16. *(New)* A control system comprising:  
a transmitter configured and arranged to periodically transmit a data signal for a predetermined data time period at a predetermined data interval, and to periodically transmit a synchronization signal for a predetermined synchronization time period at a predetermined synchronization interval that is between the predetermined data interval, whereby the data signal and the synchronization signal are transmitted at different times, the synchronization signal including information regarding the predetermined data time interval and address information identifying a receiver;

a receiver configured and arranged to receive the synchronization signal from the transmitter and, in response to the address information identifying the receiver, to activate at the predetermined data time interval for a predetermined time period to receive the data

signal, and to deactivate at times other than the predetermined data time period at the predetermined data time interval.

17. *(New)* The control system of claim 16, wherein the receiver is further configured and arranged to, in response to a fault or a start up condition, enter into an active synchronization mode until the synchronization signal is received from the transmitter.